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Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon the Most Important Topics of the Hour.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Polygamy in Utah.

The House Committee on Territories have applied to Secretary Stanton for permission to summon General P. Edward Conner, commanding the United States forces in Utah, and the Rev. Norman McLeod, Pastor of the "Gentile" Church in Salt Lake City, to appear before them and testify touching the condition of Utah and the manner in which the laws of the United States are observed and enforced.

Pierce and Party.

Mr. Pierce has made a speech. In New Hampshire. At a Democratic caucus. Only a portion of it has reached us—a delicate tit-bit—a crumb of old ad wisdom—the quintessence of a long and varied experience—a sort of aphorism bursting with sagacity—a barrel of political philosophy boiled down to a pint—a recipe, in small, for all the country's complaints—and very kind it was to let us know what a blessed "change" awaits the land.

The Personnel of the Administration.

We do not think we have had an administration of our Government since its foundation which, as a body, has had higher ability and character than the present, or one in which the country has had a greater confidence and pride.

No one would fear comparison between the diplomatic capacity of Secretary Seward and Earl Russell or Henry de Layens—between the financial genius of Secretary McCulloch and Gladstone or Fould, and as for Secretary Stanton, the course of recent European history has had no opportunity for the display of abilities such as he has illustrated, while he certainly would not suffer by being placed alongside of any of the War Ministers of any of the great European Powers in any of the great military epochs.

The fact is of the very highest importance to us as a nation. Besides the popular confidence in the administration of the various departments which it generates, it gives the country a feeling of conscious strength and dignified self-respect, such as it has not always during the present generation been able to maintain.

In the first position in our Administration, we have in President Johnson a man whose course under the most difficult conditions—whatever criticisms may be made as to forms and details, or whatever may be said by malignants like Phillips as to motive or object—has been signified by profound patriotism, by unimpeachable integrity, and by courage and whose policies have been comprehensive, far-reaching, discreet, and conservative, and of a nature calculated to effect the purpose which he has declared to be his sole ambition—the perfect reunion of all the States in fact and in spirit.

White on the one hand President Johnson has approved himself a man of most energetic forces, which are constantly demanding expression, he has also recently shown himself to be possessed of the rare power of conserving or holding in check the forces of patiently permitting events to move on and develop themselves, where he lacks the power of interference, or where his hasty interference would retard their progress towards the end which he desires to accomplish.

Secretary Seward's name is a tower of national strength, and is held in profound respect throughout the world. This certainly is not because it has been his fortune to obtain popularity by following popular ideas or by trying to secure fame by the achievement of simple labors. In domestic politics, he stood for long years as the recognized public champion of the unpopular cause of anti-slavery, and the exponent of an ideal which the eye of faith might foresee would inform the "party of the future," but which had little prospect of obtaining political power for generations. Since he has had the conduct of our foreign relations, he

has to oppose the purposes, prejudices, and interests of nearly all the Governments with which he carried on intercourse, and he has had to do so under circumstances often calculated to irritate and vex. Yet in all he has been successful, and through all he has grown up to the full measure of honor and fame.

Stanton was unknown to the country until he was named Secretary of War; but he no sooner assumed the title than the fact was patent North and South, in the army and in the States. It is common enough now to recognize his integrity, his energy, his strength, and his greatness, to magnify his labors and celebrate his achievements. As in Seward's case, the issue and result of his works constitute their final encomium, and by this view, he stands foremost among the military administrators of history.

The Reconstruction Committee and their Latest Constitutional Amendment.

The special order of the day in the Federal House of Representatives on Monday next, will probably be the resolution from the Reconstruction Committee, embracing the following proposition for an amendment of the Constitution, to wit:—

That Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to secure to the citizens of each State all the privileges and immunities of the several States equal protection in the rights of life, liberty, and property.

This is a fair proposition, but it seems to us wholly unnecessary and superfluous. The Constitution as it is expressly declares that "the citizens of each State shall have all the privileges and immunities of the several States;" and as this is included in that division of the constitution which treats of the powers of Congress, the enforcement of those constitutional "privileges and immunities" clearly belongs to Congress. Next, with regard to the protection of all persons in the several States in the rights of life, liberty, and property, what is this for? Enactments by Congress for the enforcement of these personal rights have heretofore never been thought of by the State Legislatures, and the State and United States courts, have answered the purpose. But while, before the late Rebellion, according to Chief Justice Taney, the negro had no rights which white men were bound to respect, he has, since the war, with the abolition of slavery, been advanced by the Constitution to the level of the "free persons" or citizens of the United States.

Mr. Bancroft, in his late Lincoln discourse before Congress, said that the Dred Scott decision of 1857 was one of the old bones of contention in our law, common law, or constitutional law; but still, under the Constitution as it was, State legislation and Congressional legislation had established a system of civil and political disabilities against the blacks, such as to palliate to a great extent the bold and starting construction given from the Supreme Court by Judge Taney of the Constitution itself.

The war, however, and the amendment abolishing slavery have swept every vestige of authority from the Constitution for these discriminations against the blacks of this country in reference to their general civil and political rights. If the free negro of the United States had no rights which white men were bound to respect, it was because he was not included in the ban involved in the Constitutional recognition and protection of African slavery. With that institution swept away, the negro born and raised in the United States becomes a citizen of the United States, and one of the people, in whose name the Constitution is made.

Superficial Reform.

That portion of the report of the Revenue Commissioners which considers "the organization and administration of a revenue system," bears evidence that the Commissioners either were constrained to make a report before their views were matured, or that the subject was too large and complex for their grasp. Neither of these theories is any impeachment of the general intelligence or industry of the Commission.

The first, of course, is not; and, as to the last, it would not be strange that a commission made up of men, none of whom ever had experience in the high places of Federal Administration, should find themselves plunged in a sea of difficulties and uncertainties. In respect to the internal revenue, the Commissioners say that they "have no allegation of fraud to present, but at the same time are constrained to add that in point of organization and administration it is very far from what it should be."

for full discharge of all the duties now devolved upon and expected of the Commissioner.

IV. No fire-proof building in Washington in which to keep records and papers of internal revenue.

V. The prevailing policy of making the appointment, retention, and promotion of officers of this Bureau depend on politics alone.

VI. Ignorance on the part of officers who have been selected and appointed by Mr. Lincoln's Administration.

The Commission would suggest that the first of these—the collection of the revenue—be transferred from the immediate responsibility of the Secretary of the Treasury, and subject only to his general supervision, be placed under the charge of a new officer, subordinate only in rank and in amount of salary to the Secretary, who shall be styled the

Under-Secretary of the Treasury, and that to this officer should be assigned the general oversight and direction of the collection of the revenues, and the preparation of an annual exhibit of the condition of the revenue, trade, commerce, and industry of the country.

The Commission would also propose that, in connection with the new department of the Treasury, there should be appointed a Commissioner of the Customs and a Commissioner of the Excise, with a Solicitor of the Customs and a Solicitor of the Excise, to be known as the Board of Commissioners of the Revenue, of which the Under-Secretary of the Treasury should be the chairman.

It will be seen that this outline of the plan of the Commission, besides creating a new array of office-holders, gives to the Secretary a "general supervision" which, we suppose, as much supervision as each Secretary may be inclined to take. At any rate, this scheme, by giving to him "general supervision," makes the Secretary really responsible for the administration of the Board of Commissioners.

Every Board of Commissioners will inevitably be constituted to the Secretary of the Treasury, who is a superior officer, with power of "general supervision;" and whenever he or the President desire appointed will, as a matter of course, be commissioned. No kind of legislative restriction can be put upon the President in executive matters. He rules first by persuasion, and if that fails, he has only to remove the refractory officer or Board, and appoint another more disposed to be attentive to his instructions.

The evil of incompetent officials complained of by the report cannot be remedied by creating more places, to be filled by men no better than those now in office. The only true path of reform, then, is to turn to the incapable now in power, and then elevate better people in their stead.

Sustaining the Administration.

It was deeply regretted by every really wise and good citizen that the national Administration had to encounter an organized opposition in this section of the Union during the progress of the late Rebellion. It was said then, and said with great truth, too, that there should be but one party in the loyal States; and that those who were not for the Government during the trying emergency in question, were necessarily against it. It is well known that Mr. Lincoln's Administration was seriously embarrassed by those who, professing loyalty to the Constitution, yet objected to almost every important measure that was adopted for the suppression of the Rebellion; and it may be truthfully asserted now, in vindication of the character and good name of the "martyred President," that most, if not all of those acts of his that were denounced as arbitrary, or unwarranted by strict law, were rendered necessary, and therefore justified, by the practical aid which the Rebels received from a faction here in the North, whose members, while claiming to be adverse to secession, pursued a course of action which positively impeded the Government in all its efforts to put down the Secessionists.

We recall this fact from no desire to heap odium on those persons in the loyal States who were either opposed to the late civil war on the part of the national authorities, or who did not, at least, heartily sympathize and co-operate with the Executive and Congress in their endeavors to quell the insurrection. History will take care of all that with posterity, and the account will, no doubt, be finally settled in a manner that will mete out equal justice to all concerned. But the lessons of the recent past should not be lost to the immediate present. The Rebellion, indeed, has been conquered. The clang of arms in fratricidal strife is heard no more in the land.

The great problem whether this Government is able to maintain itself against domestic treason on the most gigantic scale upon which it could possibly be organized, has been brought to the test, and worked out to a most satisfactory, and, we hope, an ultimate and lasting solution. It should not, however, be supposed that the Government has yet so completely

finished the task imposed upon it by the Rebellion, as to be able to dispense with the harmonious and cordial support of all those who are genuinely and sincerely loyal to it.

The present Administration, indeed, has quite as arduous and important a work to perform in restoring the late rebellious States and their people to their appropriate relations to the Union, as the previous Administration had in overcoming the insurgents in the field.

And, therefore, President Johnson, in his efforts to accomplish a wise and sound policy of reconstruction, is just as much in need of, and just as much entitled to, the confidence, sympathy, and co-operation of every loyal citizen in the whole country, as was Mr. LINCOLN during the progress of the war. Factious opposition to the Government now, in Congress or out of it, is hardly, if at all, less injudicious, less unwarranted, or less reprehensible, than it was when the armies of the South were facing the soldiers of the Union in the field, and advancing even to the very gates of the national capital.

President JOHNSON feels this truth, no doubt, more profoundly and painfully than any other man in this country, and he must have been intensely gratified on Wednesday last; when a large number of the leading citizens of Montana Territory waited on him at the White House, and pledged to him their earnest approval of his policy, and their purpose to sustain him in it to the end. Their spokesman, Mr. B. M. PINNEY, in the course of his address on that occasion said:—

"We are using no idle or imaginary words when we assure you that we take the greatest possible pleasure in saying that we recognize in you, as the Chief Magistrate of this great nation, a person who possesses that sound mind, that general knowledge, that firm and patriotic devotion to the ruling interest and welfare of the whole country, which are so necessary to carry it safely over the ocean of political speculation and debate. We attach no great importance to the ascription of our feelings in relation to yourself, but we should be doing injustice to ourselves and injustice to the people of the Territory of Montana, and should merit their severest censure, if we did not say that we firmly believe that you meet with a cordial and generous support on every hand, this nation will come forth from this present political crisis a stronger and better nation, prepared to take a higher stand, and do a nobler work on the platform of history than has ever yet been allotted to any nation of the earth."

Words like these can come only from the lips of men whose hearts are right. They are the inspiration of the highest and purest patriotism, unalloyed by any spirit of conceited egotism, or any bias of personal interest or prejudice. They are the utterances of patriots, who not only have no party predilections or party aims to gratify, but who clearly perceive that the only legitimate object of the war waged against the Rebellion will remain unattained until the Union is entirely restored; and that, unless the President is properly supported now in his efforts to that end, it must either be defeated altogether or postponed through an indefinite period of bitter and injurious political contention in every part of the land.

It is true, moreover, that if the Union is once re-established on a just basis, on the Constitutional principles on which it was originally founded, its power and prosperity will be far grander in the future than it has ever been in the past, or could ever have been but for the terrible struggle that has tried its strength, and confirmed it beyond all hope of overthrow by domestic treason or foreign hostility. All truly loyal citizens everywhere should realize this fact. Those especially who stood by the Government during the late civil war should not desert it now. Opposition from them to the Administration is more dangerous now than from those who opposed the Government while the Rebellion lasted. Besides, there can henceforth be but one strong and decidedly dominant party in this country, and that party must be found always and entirely faithful to the Constitution and the Union, and conservative of both as one and indivisible. President JOHNSON has plainly and squarely planted himself on that platform, and the great mass of the people will undoubtedly be with him. Those, therefore, who shall attempt to fight him and them, from this time forward, on that high and firm ground, will rapidly dwindle to a miserable minority, who will not only be vanquished in every encounter, but incur an odium and little less than that which attaches to those who opposed the Government during the war.

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